

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ILO, PFOR, AORG, DM, OAU

SUBJECT: ILO - U.S. POSITION ON ELECTION OF DIRECTOR

GENERAL

1. ACTION POSTS, EXCEPT ADDIS, SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT THAT USG WILL SUPPORT DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD (FRANCE) FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO.

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2. ADDIS SHOULD INFORM OAU AS WELL AS HOST GOVERNMENT.

3. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT USG DOES NOT KNOW HOW EMPLOYER AND WORKER REPS FROM US WILL VOTE, AND EMPHASIZE THAT THEY WILL MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND INDEPENDENTLY OF USG.

4. ACTION POSTS MAY STATE THAT USG HAD LONG AND DIFFICULT INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THIS DECISION. BOTH CANDIDATES HAD BEEN WELL KNOWN TO US REPS FOR MANY YEARS, AND BOTH WERE GIVEN MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. WE EXAMINED WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF VIEW OF BOTH CANDIDATES AND CONDUCTED SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH BOTH ON SPECIFIC POINTS OF INTEREST. IT WAS PAINFUL FOR US TO HAVE TO DECIDE BETWEEN TWO MEN, BOTH OF WHOM WE LIKED AND RESPECTED.

5. THE FOLLOWING RATIONALE WAS USED IN REACHING THE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF BLANCHARD.

HE IS OLDER, MORE EXPERIENCED IN ILO AND A MORE SEASONED PERSON.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, TEVOEDJRE HAS MANY YEARS AHEAD OF HIM AND, AS WE HAVE DECIDED TO USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH BLANCHARD TO SECURE TEVOEDJRE'S APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, TEVOEDJRE SHOULD BE IN GOOD POSITION TO SECURE THE ELECTION NEXT TIME.

7. THE USG FULLY SYMPATHIZES WITH THE DESIRE OF AFRICAN STATES THAT AN AFRICAN BE ELECTED TO THE TOP POST OF A MAJOR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY. IN THIS RESPECT, WE ARE LOOKING WITH FAVOR ON THE CANDIDACY OF AMADOU-MOKHTAR M'BOW (SENEGAL) FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP OF UNESCO.

8. OF COURSE, IF TEVOEDJRE WINS THE ELECTION, THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE HIM EVERY POSSIBLE SUPPORT.

9. FYI LAGOS: UNITED STATES IS IN ARREARS ON ITS CY 1973 ASSESSMENT TO ILO BY AMOUNT OF 2,287,000 DOLLARS. WE PLAN TO SUBMIT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR FULL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMOUNT OF THIS ARREARAGE. END FYI KISSINGER

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